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Le Partage de l'Océanie. Par Henry Russier. xi and 370 pp., Illustrations and Maps. Vuibert & Nony, Paris, 1905. (Price, 7.50 fr.)

In the past twenty years events have tended more than ever before to make the Pacific a centre of international politics. Among these events have been the development of large interests pertaining to the United States and Germany. The history of colonial enterprise has recently been told by Dr. Supan; and now comes this volume by Dr. Russier. It is a rather more extended treatment of the same subject, and is an important compilation of facts dealing with the Pacific Islands, their inhabitants, and their relations with the white race from the earliest times to the present day. The volume is a fine specimen of book manufacture, abounds with beautiful photographic illustrations, and its maps, though merely black-and-white sketches, are fairly adequate for the essential needs of the reader.

In the first 94 pages the author gives a carefully-written account of the genesis of the archipelagoes, their natural conditions, and their indigenous populations. The following 88 pages are devoted to a concise but complete history of the voyages of discovery for three centuries, beginning with the sixteenth; of the development of missionary enterprises and the political results of these religious and educational movements; of the rivalries that grew up between the European nations which, through missionaries and teachers, had secured a foothold, and of the resulting conflicts and international competition. The remainder of the work, about 175 pages, is given to the development of the French, English, United States, and German colonies.

The author has little faith that France will long continue to exercise important influence in this part of the world; but he believes that brighter prospects await the enterprises of the United States and Germany, which, he says, have the means of communication to keep in close touch with all their Pacific interests. He thinks, however, that the appearance of Japan as a colonial Power in the Pacific cannot be viewed with complacency by other nations, and is, to say the least, a disquieting fact.

Ostasienfahrt. Erlebnisse und Beobachtungen eines Naturforschers in China, Japan, und Ceylon. Von Dr. Franz Doflein. xiii and 511 pp., Maps, Illustrations, and Index. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1906. (Price, M. 13.)

The book tells the story of a naturalist's experiences and observations in Oriental waters. It is intended for intelligent readers generally, and is one of those works, increasing in number, which give a popular account of scientific labours. Dr. Doflein made the journey in 1904, with the special purpose of investigating fauna along the eastern Japanese coast, which not only offers unusual forms peculiar to that region, but also contains an admixture of marine life belonging to waters of more northern latitudes, and also to those of far southern regions. It is here that the Kuro Siwo, or the warm current flowing north along the coast of Japan, meets the cool Kurile current from the north, and the observer found that here the relations between the northern and southern fauna might well be studied. The result of his investigations, however, seems to show that there is no sharp boundary between the migrations of the southern and northern faunas, and that the change from one to the other takes place gradually, and all along the eastern coast of Japan. Dr. Doflein thinks that the reason for this is that the north and south flowing currents intermingle and change their position with the time of the year.

He found that the fauna in Sagami Bay to the south of Tokio is remarkably rich, owing, doubtless, to large supplies of food, due to mortality among the sur-